WRESTLING

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MAT
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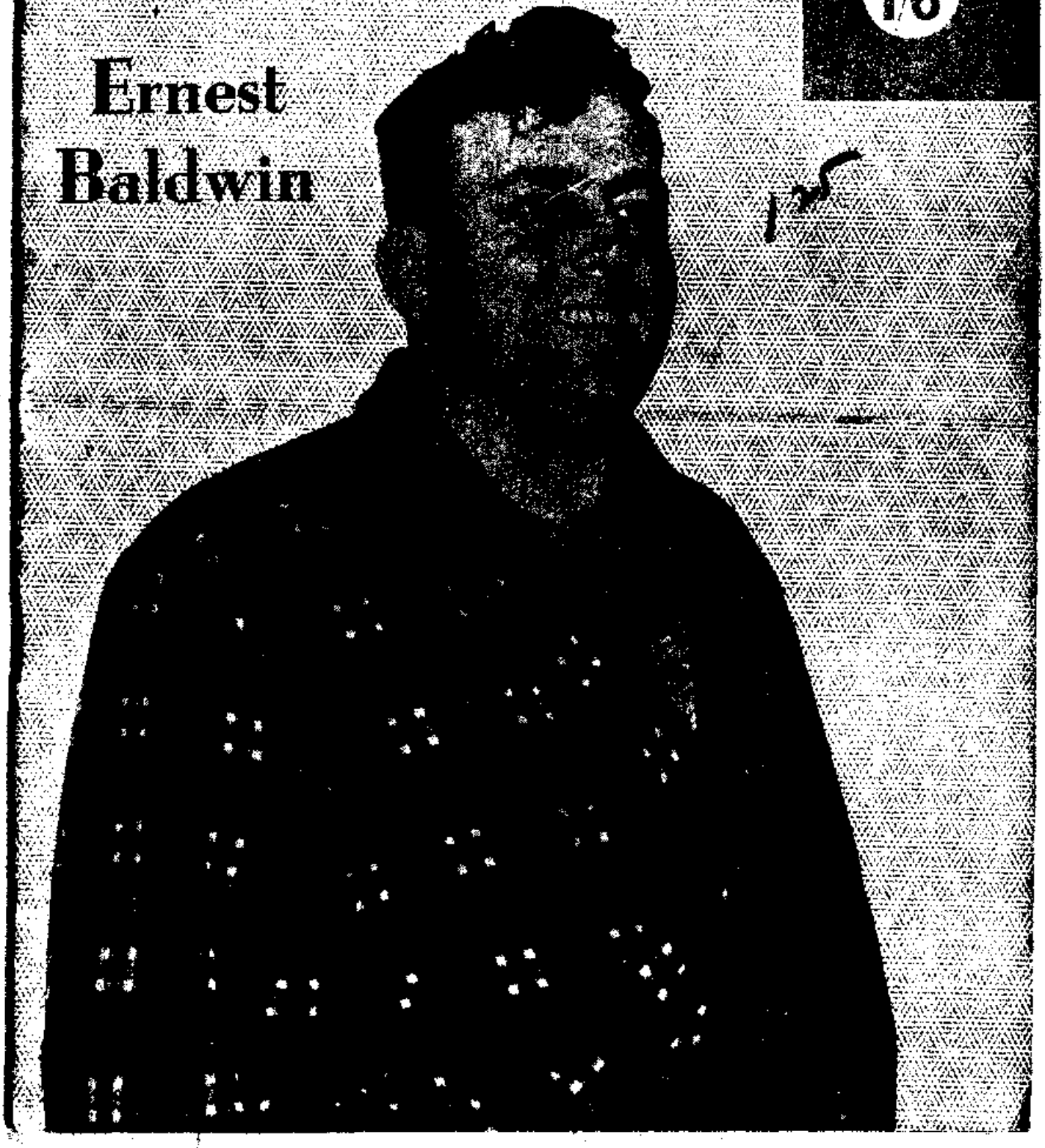
Ernest Baldwin



The World's Leading **MAT** Wrestling Journal

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Promoters, Managers, Wrestlers and Wrestling Fans all over the world, are asked to co-operate with us in presenting news and pictures of world wrestling to the wrestling world. Send us your pictures and stories. MAT magazine leads the rest in its presentation of wrestling items, and it is due to the co-operation of thousands of individuals of similar interest that we are able to publish the variety and number of interesting items and pictures month by month. YOUR co-operation is what we want. You may think it doesn't matter. It does matter. SEND US YOUR ITEMS ALONG TO-DAY

MAT is available throughout Great Britain, and via all British bookstalls on the Continent. It is also on sale in Canada and the United States of America.

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Our brilliant young wrestling contributor,
A. HANIFF, tells of

Kikkar Singh of India

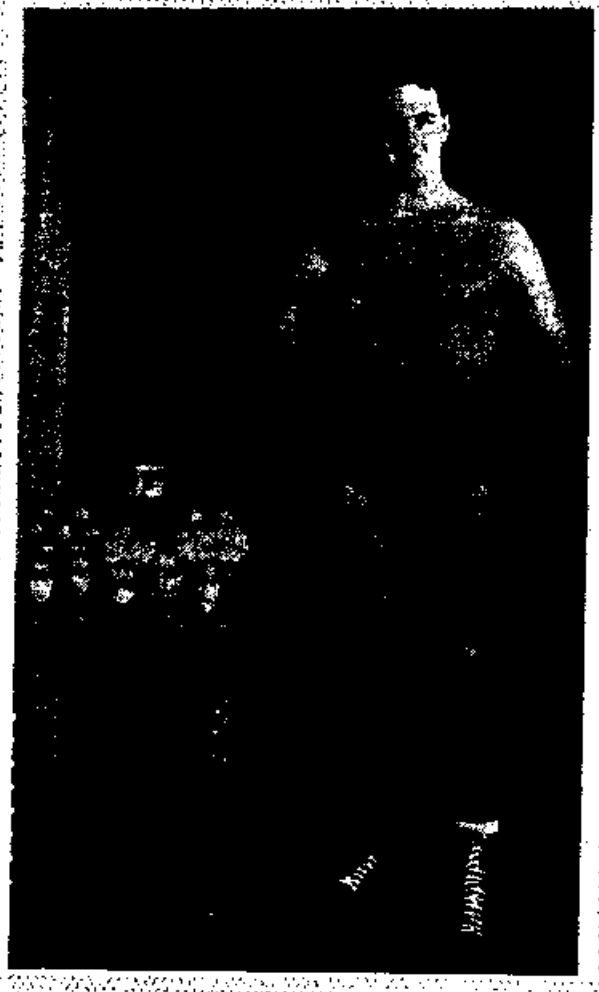
Biggest man ever born in that country who could boast an 80 inch chest and who weighed 467 pounds. Said to have pulled a tree from the ground with his bare hands.

ONE of Ghulam's greatest rivals was Kikkar Singh —the biggest man ever born in India. He had a chest measurement of 80 inches and weighed 467 pounds. He is said to have pulled up a mature Acacia (Kikkar) tree by the roots and that is how he inherited the name of Kikkar. He came from a family of peace-loving agriculturists, but had no liking for his family occupation and took up wrestling with no very definite aim. But he eventually became one of the greatest wrestlers of the East. His strength was enormous. But with all his size, he wrestled with the nimbleness of a lion.

Once, this human pachyderm performed a great feat in Kashmir, where the late Maharajah Sir Partap Singh had an electric machine for his relatives rheumatism cure. One fine morning the Maharajah tested the machine on his wrestlers and there was not a wrestler present who could hold the current, so someone suggested the name of Kikkar Singh, who was in Kashmir at that time preparing for the tournament that was to be held at Jammu. Kikkar was called and he gladly took hold of the tubes and the current was opened to its full volume. There was not a sign of pain or agony on Kikkar's face except a bead of perspiration could be seen on the gladiator's forehead. When the current was stopped his palms were burned and thick layers of blisters were formed. Later, his palms had become so tough that when he once smacked the Great Ghulam in their third bout, Ghulam gave a yell with pain and his cheek showed the mark for many years.

After Ghulam's death Kikkar reigned supreme. He defeated all comers. Kaloo, the brother of Ghulam and second only to the Great Ghulam, was beaten four times by Kikkar. Gamu Baliwala, one of Ghulam's most formidable opponents, also met defeat at the hands of this giant wrestler. Others of equal fame who also bowed before this mighty grappler were Shah Nawaz, Channan of Lahore, Ditta and Kadirbut of Multan and Kala Pertaba who also had Kikkar's build. After Ghulam's death, Kaloo had claimed the title, but Kikkar Singh stood in his way, so they did meet after some time. They wrestled seven times, Kikkar had four wins, lost two matches and their last match was drawn at Calcutta. In this match Kikkar entered the Arena with Ramamurti, the famous strongman of India. When the match started Kikkar and Kaloo circled the arena like two hungry lions and they both wanted to belittle each other's ability. When Kaloo brought Kikkar on the ground, he was fouled by Kikkar. On resuming the match Kaloo gave Kikkar, a thorough beating, then the referee intervened and it was declared a drawn match.

In his last match many years later Kikkar met Miran Buksh, brother of famous Ahmed Buksh. This match was held on a sunny afternoon and Kikkar was passed his prime. He had his arms extended towards Miran for a 'bear hug' but Buksh had no choice for such a squeeze and he was biding his time for a leg hold. After a few minutes he had his opportunity and brought Kikkar down with an earthquake. Kikkar lay on his face and Miran turned him over with a half nelson and it took all his superhuman strength to do so. So this Giant of the East ended his career of wrestling with questionable defeat.

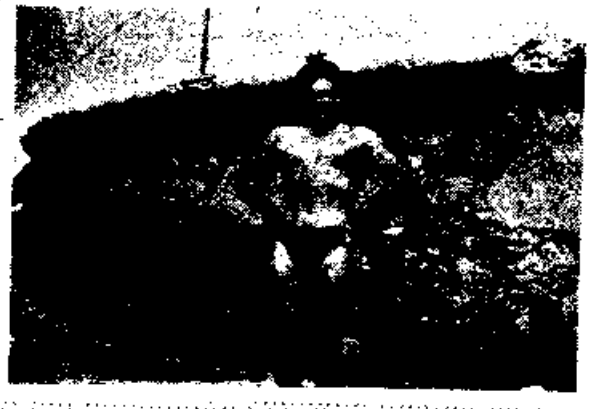


ERIC TAYLOR

of

BRADFORD

ERIC TAYLOR of Bradford, now back from National Service, has quickly established himself once more. This good looking youngster is an immaculate chap in the ring both in appearance and style, and being young, he naturally has the support of the fans in his encounters with older and more experienced wrestlers.



Eric has always led an athletic life, and a fairly successful one, too. The awards seen in the accompanying picture are but part of his collection. He has not won any titles as a professional wrestler as yet, but that is not surprising in view of his youth. The ability is there alright, and there are thousands of fans ready to say that it is only a question of time before he does reach championship class.

He believes in training as often as possible without becoming 'stale,' and does a lot of weightlifting in his routine. He is a quiet living young fellow as are most other athletes who meet with any measure of success, and he is not the type that lets success get the better of them. Eric Taylor is a wrestler worth watching, both now and in the future.

ALL PHOTOS TAKEN IN TRIPOLI

★ Liverpool's New Gymnasium

By RUPERT RICE.

Vairo's Gymn opened officially by Alderman Simon Mahon, J.P., O.B.E., former Mayor of Bootle.

Alderman Mahon is seen shaking hands with Tony Vairo, whilst between them is MAT'S Northern correspondent, Rupert Rice. On the left is the famous Boxing personality, Johnny Best Jnr.

(Photograph by kind permission of J. Cummins).

"VAIRO'S"—Liverpool's newest gymnasium, situated in Transport House, Islington, officially opened on May 6th; by the former Mayor of Bootle, Alderman Simon Mahon, O.B.E., J.P., bids fair to become one of the best in the country.

A large audience witnessed the opening ceremony. The history of "Vairo's" gym goes back over 20 years, to the days when the late Ernest Bevin, M.P., was known as the "Dockers' K.C." It was Mr. Bevin who secured the loan of the lower part of Transport House as a gym, passing it over to Tony Vairo on the one condition that no-one who wished to take up boxing and physical training would be turned away. It was an agreement, never actually put in writing but nevertheless faithfully kept.

It was from this gymnasium that such great fighters as Ernie Roderick, Jimmy Walsh, Joe Curran, and many others emerged. It was here that that brilliant American and World Champion Freddie Miller always did his training for his Liverpool contests.

With the opening of the Professional Boxers' Association Gymnasium in Liverpool last year, Vairo who is the only boxing manager to be an Honorary Member of the P.B.A., felt it was right to encourage boxers to use that gym. Consequently, he had to reorganise his own gymnasium, and a considerable amount of thought was given in this direction.

For many years there had been considerable agitation for a new type of gymnasium in Liverpool, one which could be used by both sexes, containing not only the latest eqipment but open not only to sportsmen but business people as well.

Plans were drawn up, advice on sporting and physical culture equipment from highest authorities sought. Then came the decorators and plasterers who promptly tore down the old gym, from which emerged at the cost of many hundreds of pounds and several months of hard work, the modern gymnasium as it stands to-day.

Central heating was installed first, then came the Physio-Theraphy room in which is to be found the latest devices in Radiant Heat, Turkish Bath, Swedish and Electro Vibro Massage, Infra Red and Ultra Violet Rays, Faradism and Galvanism. The showers, hot and cold combined, were next put in. The Ring was next, new canvas bought, the ring remodelled. Here exercises and ground work can be done. There is a waiting room, cloakroom, office; a further room is in the last stage of being completed. At the moment Vairo is awaiting shipment of such things as weights, mirrors and other equipment. This will be the Physical Culture room.

The work of massaging is in the hands of that noted Liverpool Masseur, Mr. E. J. Kennedy, M.S.F. There is an ever-increasing flow of clients from businessmen, wrestlers, weightlifters and footballers passing through his skilled hands. Mr. Kennedy's lady assistant also a highly competent masseur, attends to the fair sex.

Speaking of his clients, Mr. Kennedy said, "Our business is open from 9-0 a.m. to 5-0 p.m. We give the best attention possible. It is surprising the assortment of people who pass through these doors. For example, here are to-morrow's appointments. Several businessmen, a footballer, a wrestler, stars from a variety show appearing at a nearby theatre, besides two ladies. It is little recognised," continued Mr. Kennedy, "that business worries can cause as much physical disorganism as sporting injuries. It is our job to get our clients back into the best physical shape, for a healthy body is the best possible means in assisting one to keep on top of one's particular job, whether that job be in an enclosed office or on the sporting field."

After watching the wonders of the Turkish Bath and witnessing the popular Liverpool Junior footballer, Jimmy McCormick, receiving attention to his leg under the skilled hands of Mr. Kennedy, one felt there was a lot of truth in this famed Masseur's remarks.

Standing (Back Row):
E. J. Kennedy, Tony Vairo Jnr., Rupert Rice, Jimmy McCormick, John McHale and a lady assistant.

Seated (Front Row):
Dom Vairo, Ald. Simon Mahon, O.B.E., J.P., Tony Vairo and Johnny Best Jnr.

(Photograph by kind permission of J. Cummins).

From 7-0 p.m. to 9-0 p.m., after the wrestlers and other sportsmen have gone, John McHale, former Naval light and welterweight champion, takes over and gives boxing instruction to any youngster who cares to come along. Mr. Bevin's request that no-one be turned away is being faithfully observed.

It was a fitting tribute to the former Foreign Secretary that Alderman Simon Mahon, who had been associated with Mr. Bevin for many years, was called upon to officially open "Vairo's Gym." In his remarks Alderman Mahon said: "At long last in Liverpool we now have a gymnasium of which we can be really proud. Let us hope that all classes, business people, sportsmen, not forgetting the ladies, will make full use of it."

Mr. Johnny Best Jnr. (representing the Liverpool Stadium) who assisted Alderman Mahon at the opening, said: "Within the last six months two good gymnasiums have been opened in this city (Liverpool), the P.B.A. gym which caters for boxers, and "Vairo's Gym" suitable for all types of sportsmen from wrestlers to footballers, not forgetting the business people. In the matter of gymnasiums Liverpool is going ahead very well indeed compared with the rest of the country."

"I will make YOU a SUPERMAN"

SAYS APOLLON — THE WORLD'S GREATEST BODYBUILDER

YOU don't want to be a puny, scrawny weakling who has to take a lot of kidding from the crowd . . . do you? Let me show you how to get broad shoulders, a 47in. chest and 17in. biceps which will command respect and admiration. When I say muscles I don't mean the "cream puff" variety . . . I mean the kind of He-Man sinews that can snap a steel chain or bring the bully to his knees if he gets funny. The Apollon system is all physical culture—no frills or fuss. Nothing is hidden, you get the whole truth straight from the shoulder, man to man. My course gets right down to the cause of human ailments, putting in tiptop shape your digestive and assimilative systems, so that your body can get the vital nourishment, without which it is IMPOSSIBLE TO GET GREAT STRENGTH and MUSCULAR BULK.

RAPID RESULTS.

Many of my pupils have added 5in. and even 6in. to their chests in the first 28 days. Hundreds have added 2in. and 3in. to their arms. Scores upon scores have increased their body-weight 10lb. in the first month of training. It's the greatest Strength and Muscle Builder of all time and has staggered the P.C. world. Men who a short time ago were thin undersized weaklings are now building SOLID body-weight, Virile Manhood and immense commanding Physical Power.

The MIGHTY APOLLON

* * *

The MIGHTY APOLLON

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This book gives you my exciting adventures as a World's Champion . . . also photographs of the greatest strong men of the world, showing their wonderful development, and telling how each trained by the Apollon resistance method. This wonderful book also tells how to TEST your muscles —how to HARNESS your VITAL POWER —how to get MUSCULAR BULK. Write to-day for FREE book and details of my "SUPER-COURSE" of Home-Training.

GET THIS FREE BOOK!

TOM GANNON

Australia

UNTER ★

in signing Ray up for the following week, and for his second professional match the youngster found himself pitted against no less an opponent than Bern Tamplin, Light-Heavyweight Champion of Australia, for the past ten years. The champion, giving one of the most impressive displays of his career, managed to eke out a very narrow decision but there were many amongst the fans who thought that he was extremely fortunate to win. The grand performance by Ray Hunter made him a star overnight although, at that time, he was only nineteen years of age. Eager to feature the brilliant newcomer on their programmes, promoters at Leichhardt, Sydney, Newcastle, Mascot and Hurstville competed for his services and the fans flocked to see the new sensation in action. Barring no matman in the country, Hunter compiled an enviable record against the best in the game.

When he turned 21, Hunter at last gave in to the Singapore promoters who had been clamouring for his services and set off for Malaya, a hot bed of wrestling. The young Australian took Singapore by storm. Among those who fell before him were such renowned matmen as George Zbyszko of Poland, Dara Singh of India and Wong Buk Lee of China. Then came a contest against King Kong, the dreaded Champion of the Orient. Kong is a 380lb. giant who has defeated nearly every ranking matman to invade Singapore. A Hungarian by birth, he has seen action against some of the best men in the game and defeated them. A packed house was on hand for the contest between Hunter and King Kong and the young Australian gave a brilliant display of matwork to win a clean cut verdict over the massive Hungarian.

Looking around for new worlds to conquer, Ray joined forces with George Duane and Charlie Gamage, two more Australians of note, and set off for Burma. As in Australia and Malaya, he became an overnight sensation in Rangoon and his sensational displays put the mat sport on a sound basis in those parts. While in Rangoon, Hunter received an urgent wire from Singapore asking him to return there for another extended season. Used to his sensational style, the Singapore fans had lost interest in wrestling with the departure of Hunter. With the return of the versatile Australian, gates picked up again and the fans flocked back to the wrestling arena. In addition several other towns opened up as wrestling centres and contests are now broadcast regularly over the Singapore radio stations.
Bert Assirati, Earl McCready and Whipper Billy Watson all claim some recognition in some parts of the world but Hunter would like to meet all three in an effort to make a universal champion. After a tour of Great Britain, Ray wants to go on to Europe and contest the European Heavyweight Championship and will then leave for Canada and the United States.

The 21 year old Australian stands 6ft. 3in. in height and is one of the best built athletes in wrestling. He has built up his weight to 222lbs. and is recognised by many as "Mr. Australia." Before leaving for Singapore he challenged Roy Hefferman to contest this title but Hefferman unfortunately suffered a broken leg so the test did not eventuate. The immense popularity of Ray Hunter is due to the fact that he sticks rigidly to the rules of wrestling and refuses to take an unfair advantage of an opponent. A fast matman with a great variety of holds at his command, he favours the Aeroplane Spin and the Knee Drop to finish his opponents. He hopes to arrive in England in August but will spend a month in London conditioning himself before entering the ring.

British wrestling fans should make a point of seeing Ray Hunter when he arrives as they will see one of the fastest and cleverest matmen ever to appear in an English ring.

Although Ray Hunter could stay in Singapore for many years and still outdraw any other wrestler, he has his heart set on greater things. He would like to clear up the present muddle that exists with the British Empire Heavyweight Championship.

THOS. A. GANNON, the leading wrestler commentator in Australasia is a regular contributor to MAT and brings news of all the outstanding wrestlers in his corner of the world.

LET'S LOOK AT THE LIGHTER WEIGHTS!

Says "POACHER."

HOWEVER you like your wrestling, rough and rugged or smooth and skilful, you've just got to hand it to the lighterweight matmen for sheer excitement and entertainment.

Surely no one will dispute the right of Dundee's **GEORGE KIDD** to be called king of the lighterweights, but right on his heels come a pack of very talented wrestlers who can offer plenty of ability.

Ranking high among them is young **BERT ROYAL** who seldom fails to give a good account of himself in the ring. Royal's style is as bright and bold as the scarlet dressing gown he wears when he enters the ring and his ability to take punishment is nothing short of terrific. He can take all his more experienced opponents can hand out and then some. No matter how much of a work over he receives he still comes eagerly out of his corner when the bell goes. In fact, if one can offer any criticism of the boy's style it is that his eagerness sometimes lets him in for unnecessary punishment. Already Bert has proved himself as a wrestler and is surely destined for even greater things in the future.

Another wrestler who parcels 'em up pretty is **CLIFF BELSHAW** of Wigan. There is nothing about Belshaw's appearance to suggest he is a colourful wrestler but as soon as he goes into action one knows that here is a matman with more than his share of tricks, agility and sheer wrestling skill. He is extremely cool headed when in the ring, seldom stays still long enough to take much punishment but when he does receive a little opposition he takes it so much in his stride that one wonders and marvels at his toughness.

Referee **JACK PROCTOR** is also tops as a wrestler, or put it the other way around if you like. Either way he knows the ropes and in which ever capacity he happens to be in the ring it pays to treat him with respect. Jack 'goes to town' with a cool calmness that almost amounts to nonchalance but let his opponents take advantage of that calm and they soon regret it for, make no mistake, Jack knows all the tricks and moves of the game.

It would be hard to say who is the more aggressive of Southerner **JOHNNY PETERS** and Salford's **FRED WOOLLEY**, but I think Woolley just about takes credit for that distinction. Often his shattering tactics seem to conform to a set of rules invented by him for his own personal use and that's when the referee and he fail to see eye to eye, but there's always one thing certain. Any contest with this wrestler in has plenty of thrills, excitement and interest. This far from silent matman certainly has a style all his own and is not afraid of rough stuff, he is quick and clever too and no one can doubt his ability to wrestle.

In all lighterweight contests the keynote is speed and the performances given are a credit to wrestlers and to the sport itself. What other sport offers such outstanding exhibitions of physical fitness and mental alertness without having to include costly and sometimes complicated equipment? What other sport can capture and hold the attention of a crowd for as long and as effectively as wrestling? The wrestling fans knows well enough the answers to those two questions.

Another young wrestler, **TERRENCE 'BEAU' RICKARDO**, takes some beating for sheer jet-propelled action. There's always an element of surprise about his tactics and he never fails to bring a cheer from the crowd who simply lap up his lively style and good sportsmanship. Rickardo's strong point doesn't seem to be his ability to take punishment but since he never appears to stay in the same place for more than two seconds on end this doesn't worry him unduly. He can turn and twist with bewildering rapidity, has the grace of a born athlete and a delightful sense of humour which stands him in very good stead.

No review of lighterweight matmen would be complete without a mention of **JOHNNY 'KITTEN HIPS' STEAD**. This neat, sleek, quick and clever matman can serve it out as smooth as silk or rougher than a doormat. His ability to take punishment as well as hand it out, his unfailing fairness and the resourceful and determined way he sets about the task before him all endear him to the fans who know a bill with his name on it is well worth going a long way to see.

ALAN COLBECK too can qualify for a place solely for the fact that although he didn't begin to wrestle professionally until after the end of the last war he has managed to carry off the British Lightweight Championship and the British Welterweight Championship. A record like this speaks for itself without any further recommendation, but it is interesting to note that while his weight has increased his head has remained the same size and not swelled in proportion. Fans admire Alan for this just as much as for his attractive style of wrestling and there are other champions who could afford to take a leaf out of his book when it comes to absence of conceit.

Taken all round they are a grand bunch of matmen. They take pride in themselves and their sport, they like the fans and the fans like them and it would be hard to say who seems to enjoy the wrestling most, the audience or the wrestlers themselves.

Cora Coombs

By JERRY FORD.

CORA is 23, stands 5ft. 5ins. tall and weighs 138lbs.

A redhead with a fair complexion and blue eyes, she graduated from Hazard High in Kentucky eight years ago. While there Cora showed her all round athletic ability by playing guard on the basketball team, pitched for the girls' baseball team, and was cheer leader the year round.

Besides this Cora starred in track events, taking first place honours for her school in the high jump

When she left school Cora made use of her voice by becoming a professional singer and sang for three years on the Hill Billy Organization, known as the Trail Riders, who make their headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, where Cora now makes her home.

While on a date one night her beau just happened into the Hippodrome which is a huge arena where wrestling centres upon in the state. She watched Mildred Burke and from that time on she was a daily visitor to the arena. In time she became so impressed with the women and men who appeared at the Hippodrome that Cora came to the point where she wanted to enter the wrestling game. She kept after Nick Gulas, the Nashville wrestling promoter, begging him to help her enter the mat game. Finally realizing her intense desire to become a woman wrestler he sent her to Columbus, Ohio, for special wrestling training and within 3 months she entered the wrestling business. To-day, Cora with a year and a half of active wrestling behind her is booked throughout the United States as one of America's most beautiful and successful women stars.

JUDO CALLING!

By PAT BUTLER

HULLO again Mat fans! Once more here is the latest news from the Judo world.

At the moment there are a number of self-styled Black Belts and 'professors' of Judo going the rounds. These individuals simply buy themselves a black belt, a book on Judo, a few mats and hire a hall . . . then they are in business. Let's hope that the British Judo Association will be cracking down on some of these fakes. Leaders and Coaches certificates are issued by the B.J.A. as are grading cards . . . a Judo instructor should produce one or the other. A central directory of all clubs, instructors, etc., qualified to teach Judo, is at my office and anyone wanting information can have it by simply enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and sending their query to me. All part of the MAT service to readers.

Edwin Duffield, genial principal of the Yen Judo Club, Glasgow, called in to see me the other day accompanied by his charming wife and his son. Edwin is doing a fine job for Judo in the Glasgow area. He certainly deals with the tough boys of Glasgow, and you do have to be tough to deal with them—and how!

Judo is still spreading rapidly throughout Britain. Many big firms are starting clubs for their workers and, of course the boys in the Forces aren't slow to get things weaving. There's one thing anyone taking up Judo can count on. No matter if he or she have not got perfect physical fitness they can still do Judo. There aren't many competitive sports that can say that; why we even have a blind man practising Judo in Biggleswade! He is Mr. A. O'Lovall, an ex-Shanghai policeman who learnt his Judo the hard way. That's the sort of courage that is good to see.

There seems a general tendency for some wrestlers to style themselves 'Judo Experts.' To the best of my knowledge only one Judo man has appeared in the British ring, and that was Yuko Tani quite a few years ago. The new experts don't say where they got their Black Belts.

There are young ladies giving demonstrations in rings. These demonstrations don't do the Art any good at all—and are not pure Judo but a mixture of Judo and wrestling. One Black Belt who saw a demonstration said the standard of Judo demonstrated was, to say the least, not up to any amateur club standard . . . . but pointed out that it had cheeseable value.

Don't forget to send along any queries you have.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THE FARMER one of Britain's outstanding Matmen answers ten questions

IN A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH OUR REPORTER, JOHN L. WATSON.

Recognised throughout the country as a leading title aspirant, we are proud to be able to present the views of this great Northern heavyweight to our readers.

Q. At what age do you consider the best for aspiring champions to take up wrestling?

A. There isn't any definite age in this respect. I was only 16 when I began, but then, I was considered to be a fairly strong youth at that time. And I had a very good trainer, too. But gennerally speaking I should say that one can't say at what age such and such a person can take up wrestling. If, and when, a person can look after himself, and is strong enough to take the knocks, that is the right age for that person.

Q. There are many big men in the heavyweight class. What would you say is about the most manouvreable weight for a big man to carry?

A. Well, I scale around 16½ stone, and I find that my best weight. I believe that when a wrestler, except in very exceptional cases, goes beyond 18 stone, his efficiency is impaired.

Q. Do you believe a training routine is necessary?

A. Of course I do. Perfection comes with practice, and strength comes by the continual exercising of the muscles of the body. You can't become strong by sitting behind an office desk, can you? One hour's solid training a day works wonders with anyone. My job is a pretty strenuous one, but I always do additional training as well, because I know that's the only way to keep on top.

Q. When you say training, what sort of training do you mean?

A. Lifting, strand pulling and other exercises that develop stamina, but not only this type of exercise. Jumping, running and all the other gymnast pastimes are very important. Do not concentrate solely on any one or any group of exercises. Remember, concentration on any one exercise tends to get a person into a mental groove, and in wrestling, that is fatal. One needs mental flexibility in a wrestling ring to keep pace with events, and there is no doubt that training practice does have its effect on a person's ability to respond quickly to new situations. One track training routines lead to one track minds. So I say, vary your training.

Q. Now, would you mind telling MAT readers what you think of those people who declare that wrestlers never really hurt each other in the ring.

A. What can I think? Some of them actually believe that! I know they don't know a lot about it, but why worry about them? People who are determined not to be convinced usually manage not to be, and if they can sit and watch a wrestling match and still retain that attitude then there isn't much that anyone can do for them.

Q. Should a wrestler be a non-smoker and a teetotaller?

A. I would not like to say he should or should not be. After all, I know wrestlers who do both, and they certainly do not appear to be any the worse for it, and I know some who do neither who do not seem any the better for it. I think the keynote here is moderation, and providing one has sense enough to keep things in perspective, there is nothing to worry about. But when smoking and drinking come to be looked upon as absolute necessities, then they really are bad habits, and that is the time to call a halt. Of the two habits, I think smoking is the worst.

Q. Whom do you consider the finest referee in British rings to-day?

A. Are you trying to get me into trouble? It's not easy to give a decision here, but you would have to give serious consideration to the claims of Les Kellett, Bert Collins, Joe Hill and Jack Procter, in any attempt to pick the best referees in the country. These men are outstanding.

Q. How did you find out you had a lethal weapon in your renowned K.O.?

A. That wasn't something that just happened, you know. It was developed in training and perfected in action. I have spent hours and hours at work on a grain sack suspended from a rafter in a barn, and I must have worn dozens of sacks out in this way. The timing is just as important as the weight behind the blow, and I have it rigged up so that the sack swings when I release it, and in this way I have co-ordinated the whole movement. It comes in very handy at times.

Q. Who would you say was the greatest wrestler of all time?

A. I would rather not pass an opinion on wrestlers who were wrestling bbefore I was born, as I have only reports to go by, and the actual facts are always smothered in legend when the old timers are under consideration. Maybe some of the old names of wrestling were in fact the best there has been yet, but I personally would not like to go so far as to select the greatest. All I am prepared to say on this question is this. Speaking of the present wrestlers that I do know and have seen in action, I can select two out of the lot that I rank as the two greatest in wrestling. One of them, is a man from my own county, a man who knows more about wrestling than is recognised by some fans, and that is Ernest Baldwin, the Wakefield heavyweight. Baldwin is a heavily built man, capable of absorbing the knocks, and possessing a konwledge of wrestling that never lets him down in a tight spot. For a man of his weight he is very agile, and his performance overthe last four years speaks louder than any praise I can give him. The other chap I would rank alongside Baldwin, though in a different weight class is the brilliant lightweight George Kidd of Dundee. I don't think there is a fitter and cleverer wrestler anywhere in the world at this moment than Kidd. I know that his weight helps him to move around and in and out of holds at amazing speed, but he stands out a mile from others of his own weight. Your readers will have seen him, and they will know what a smart chap he is in the ring, and I would like to see the lightweight wrestler who is going to relieve him of his World Title.

Q. Finally, what do you think of wrestling's chances of holding its own against other popular sports in the future?

A. This is something that seems to have been worrying people for years and years now. It's lasted pretty well now for hundreds and hundreds of years already, and I believe, that wrestling will not only hold it's own, but it will completely dominate indoor sports as far as popularity is concerned. You see, wrestling is progressive. It is not fixed and rigid, but meets the sporting requirements of whatever age it finds itself in. That is one reason why it is so popular to-day. It's fast, it demands physical efficiency, and it demands a scientific knowledge of all the varied holds and counter holds. Besides, what normal person does not like to see the giants of the ring, who have developed nature's gifts and become really fine specimens, match strength and skill one against the other in combat? Such things are basic, and I personally think that wrestling is only just beginning to move into the sporting arena. It has a great future.

Development of physical power

By JOHN VALENTINE.

THOS. INCH, famous British athlete, developed himself from a middleweight to a heavyweight.

WEIGHT TRAINING is undoubtedly the best form of exercise for those aspiring to the above-the-average or ultimate in physical development and power. Disc barbells and dumbells offer resistance to the muscle from a 15lb. bar to a resistance of hundreds of pounds should one require such a weight. The strongest man ever born—that is, naturally strong, must necessarily train on weights to give him the polish and super-finish to make him the champion nature intended him to be.

PHYSICAL TYPES. The great trouble with most beginners is their failure to realize that their bones or skeletal dimensions control what they SHOULD look like when fully developed. Animal lovers, in fact most of us are it seems, fairly familiar with the difference between one type of canine and another. We also know that if a pup is born of a bulldog nothing that we ever do will prevent it from

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By JOHN VALENTINE.
Second Chapter.

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growing into a full bred bulldog. Vice-versa, a greyhound cannot develop into a mastiff. Man or woman can definitely improve themselves beyond recognition, add or lose weight, but neither layman or scientist can yet bring about the change that would make a slim-boned person into a Carnera or some other type other than the one they belong to.

FULL DEVELOPMENT. In the writer's opinion based on study and personal observation extending nearly thirty years—the happy state of such physical condition is reached when one's development of any part of the anatomy shows nothing less than roundness or curves. Women seem to be quicker in acquiring full development because they are more prone than men to gaining weight. Persons may easily gain bulk but their lines will usually look straight—weight easily acquired looks flabby and never pleasing.

If you were born with, say wrists, less than 7 ins. and wear a hat of size 6Z then don't expect development like the Farnese Hercules—be satisfied with what nature started you with. Build enough muscle round your slim skeleton so that angles are no longer evident and that hungry look has filled out. Don't live with your skeleton pushing itself out of the meagre amount of flesh and muscle you now possess. Providing your heart is sound enough to stand the strain of a cycling jaunt, and your stomach functions on all cylinders, then go ahead and get cracking.

Remember that **THOS. INCH**, one-time Britain's Strongest Man, had wrists less than 7 inches at a height of 5ft. 10in.; they didn't prevent him from acquiring a record in upper-arm size of 19½ inches. Mr. Inch wasn't satisfied with ordinary measurements or accomplishments. Unlike Peter Pan he grew from a middleweight to a full-fledged heavyweight. His power grew accordingly as his lifting records prove. His small hands acquired such terrific gripping strength that for many years he challenged the world to lift his special dumbell, offering £200 to the first one to accomplish the feat as he could. Neither the bell or the money were ever lifted even though star performers from over the continent "gave it a go."

The one and only JOHN GRIMEK of U.S.A., considered by many the greatest ever in the physi-culture world.

W. A. PULLUM, (Wizard of the weightlifting world), is a small-boned man, and to-day we have **ED. THERIAULT,** world-famous body culturist of Canada whose small bones failed to prevent him from acquiring a wonderful physique with a pair of arms of about 17 inches.

Should you be of average height, 67 or 68 inches, with a wrist of say seven inches, then you can aspire to greater heights of physical perfection.

A fully developed man of the above heights should weigh no less than 12 stones stripped, but the American continent is so full of such average men who have acquired a high pitch of physical supremacy that the average weights are around 13 or 14 stones. That great pioneer of American bodybuilding, the late **Alan Calvert,** once drafted a table of measurements suited to the average man and he proved that a man of 68 inches weighing less than 175lb. was not fully developed.

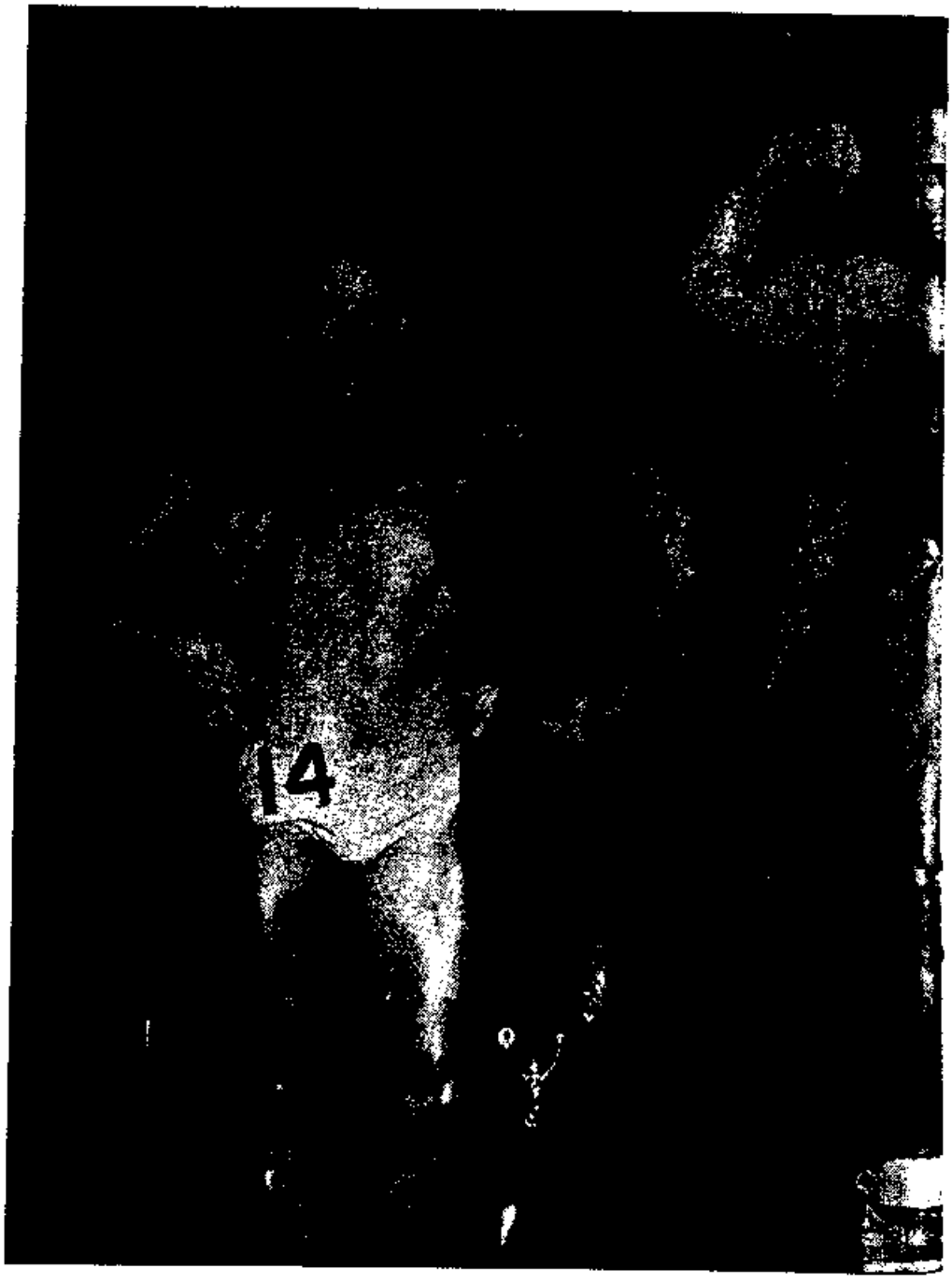
Of his era **SANDOW** was the physical sensation even though his bones were about average. Of this era we have another man of similar height to the great Eugen but whose skeleton is so much heavier that having acquired the fullness that should go with such a bone he is to-day regarded the world over as the Muscle-Marvel of all Time. I refer to no other than **JOHN CARL GRIMEK** of U.S.A. John's skeleton can stand so much bulk that his terrific muscular measurements enhance his appearance and add to the grace of a physique which is as near to that of the Farnese Hercules as anyone ever was. Here we have two men, Sandow and Grimek, both of similar height but of such contrasting difference in muscle proportion that perfect as Sandow is regarded when posing on his own, it is the writer's candid opinion that placing both on the same stage Grimek's modern-standard physique would make Sandow's look almost under-nourished.

THE TALL MEN CLASS. Here again we have problems. A six-footer can belong to any one of three bone classes. The small bone, the medium, and the heavy. Thus we could have three tall men of similar height doing the same training, performing similar tasks in their daily employment, yet getting three vastly different physiques. But even a small boned six-footer looks hungry if he is carrying less than say 14 stones. A man of good bone would look good with 15 or 16 stone such as our own modern fabulous **REG. PARK** (Mr. Britain), who nows weighs over 230lbs. in hard but graceful musculature. Reg. is so wonderfully blessed with physical gifts (both parents are tall) that his body might well reach the "super-heavyweight class" weighing no less than 240lbs. yet maintaining the grace of an Apollo.

Now we come to the giant-boned class. In this class we find the type such as **LOUIS UNI** (Apollon) of France, **HERMAN GOERNER** (The Mighty) of Germany, **PRIMO CARNERA** (Ambling Alp) of Italy. Apollon, a man of huge frame, developed his latent powers by weightlifting and wrestling. He possessed the largest muscular forearm of all

SANDOW, great as he was, could not compare with Grimek.

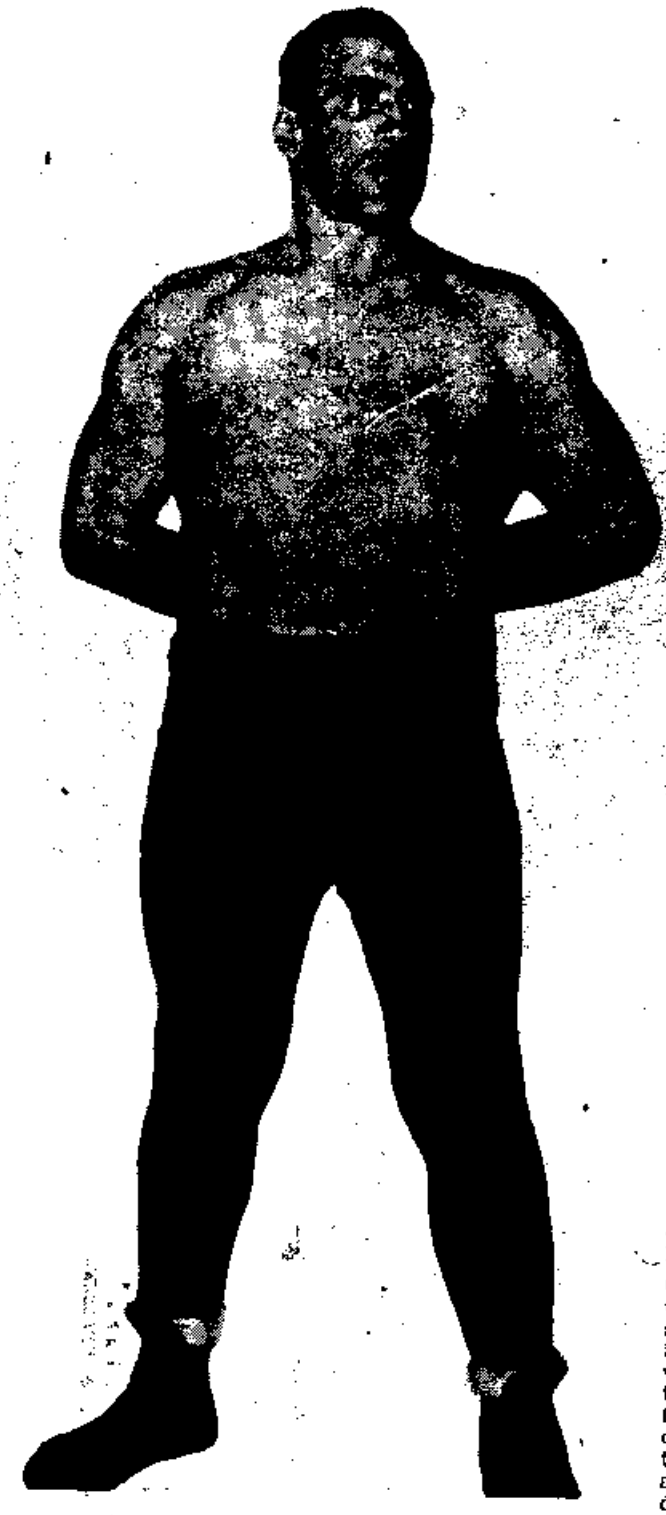
CAMILLE ROBERT ED. TH



Three Canadian top ranking "Muscle Men" pose at a recent Montreal Compe
methods. Theriault is considered the greatest 'little man' of all time. Robert W
Title, and Ed. Theriault carried off the

AULT GEORGE BOULANGER

lon. These magnificent specimens are the result of the modern body building awarded the title of 'Most Muscular Man.' Boulanger won the 'Mr. Canada 1950' Canada's Most Perfect Physique' Title.



PRIMO CARNERA

time—over 16 inches. He weighed 20 stone and carried a wrist of nearly 10 inches. GOERNER, THE MIGHTY, over 6 feet in height, was at his best "fighting weight" at 264½lbs. Goerner was at his best some years before World War II and in his tours of the world as a strong man he gave Britain an astonishing performance of physical power quite in keeping with his gigantic size. Pullum, his British impressario, referred to him in the following terms: "THE STRONGEST OFF ALL THE WORLD'S STRONGEST MEN." And again: "HERCULES COMES BACK TO EARTH." And nobody can deny that Pullum knows his strong men. In the biography of this superman written by Edgar Mueller and published in England under the apt title: "GOERNER THE MIGHTY," Mueller gives his subject such dimensions as follows: Height 72.5, neck 19.5, reach 78.5, shoulder circumference 59.1, chest normal 50.4, upper arm 18.9, forearm straight 15.8, AND HIS WRISTS, left 8.7, right 9.1. Date taken, December, 1934, when Goerner was 43 years of age weighing 20 st. 10lb. A magnificent man of physical power.

★

CARNERA. This mastodon type come very rarely. There have been men quite as tall (6ft. 5in.) and as heavy, but none quite so muscularly defined. His colossal frame makes it possible for him to acquire a bodyweight of nearly 30 stone without looking anything less than a man of sheer muscle. Primo first practised weightlifting to improve his strength and physique, later he went in for a spot of wrestling then a turn in his career caused him to leave the wrestling mat and try boxing—to become champion heavyweight of the world. Retiring from the boxing ring he is now again back at his first love, wrestling. He is doing quite well too. Evidently wrestling has a longer span of life than boxing—further proof that weight-training and wrestling give longevity.

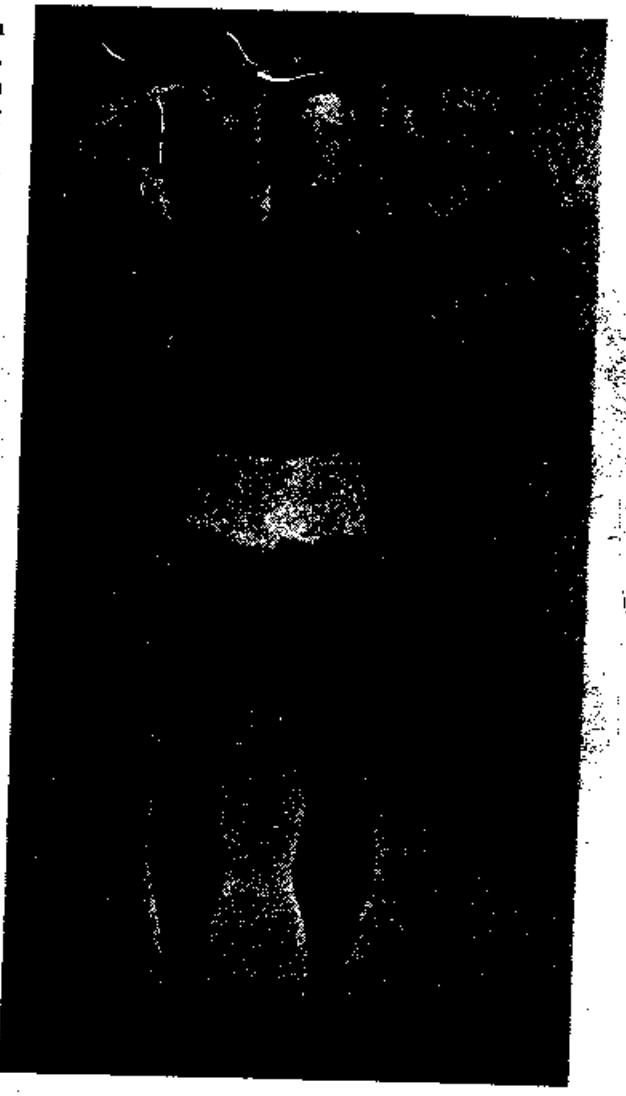
LENGTH OF TIME. Another snag a teacher has to contend with in helping new pupils is TRANSFORMATION OVER-NIGHT! A newcomer wants the physical glory of a Grimek, the strength of a Goerner, and the ability of a Hackenschmidt, all within the shortest possible time. A person will spend years neglecting his body and then go to an instructor and demand him to undo the wreckage with a few minutes gentle muscle-tickling three times a week. How can any teacher help a pupil if the latter spends 8 hours daily sat in his office chair, maybe uses a car to and from work or merely takes a Sunday walk as an exercise and then expects a little gym work to undo all that harm accumulated during the daily tasks?

Thousands of us earn our daily bread behind an office desk and very little can be done about it. Chests get flatter, waists get thicker, complexions paler, and a full cigarette ash tray at the end of the day. Out of the office we can do something. All jobs require and burn energy, but sedentary workers cannot possibly burn up as much energy as the manual worker, and therefore, should have and be able to devote a little more time to an exercise period than his brother worker in heavy industry.

Three to four sessions weekly at bodybuilding spending day no more than one hour at a time will certainly do a great deal for a man regardless how run down he might be. Once the "breaking-in" stage has been left behind, the pupil will be able to increase his energy expenditure per week in three sessions. Remember REST is also a good developer. As a matter of fact, DEVELOPING TAKES PLACE AFTER THE EXERCISE! During the exercise, one is tearing down and burning tissue—the rest between exercise periods should regain the destroyed matter and also add a little both in size and strength. One can overdo rest and exercise. Too much of one is as bad as too much of the other. The point to strive for at each 'work-out' is not where one feels exhausted but to know when he feels a state of exhileration.

At the end of a session the body should feel a fullness of every part. The eyes should look brighter, the face should glow, the voice more resonant, the step lighter. And with it all an accompaniment of sheer good-will and well-being to all.

(END OF SECOND PART).



STEVE REEVES, idol of thousands of body builders the world over. Steve is said to have been a weakling at one time, but through sheer determination he has become one of the finest built men in the world.

Some of the World's leading Wrestlers

HANS STEINKE.
STRONGEST OF ALL THE WRESTLERS.

JACK PYE.

The SWEDISH ANGEL.
(PHIL OLOFSSON.)

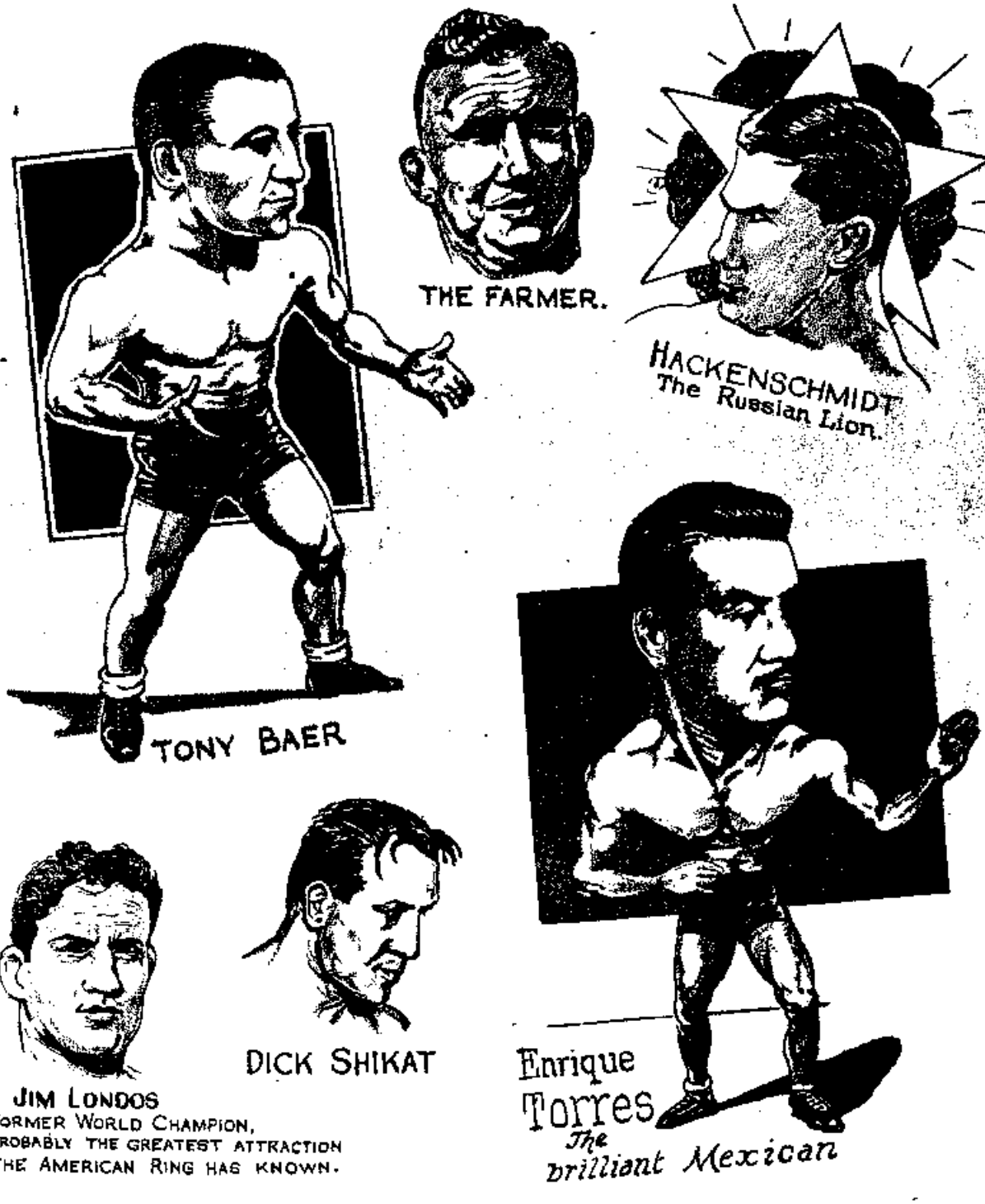
FARMER BURNS.
WHO LOST ONLY 7 OUT OF 6,000 WRESTLING CONTESTS.
WAS THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED FRANK GOTCH

LITTLE ABIE COLEMAN

MAN MOUNTAIN DEAN

ELLIS BASHARA.
FORMER GRID STAR.

GINO GARIBALDI.
SUSPENDED IN NEW YORK FOR TOSSING AN OPPONENT AT THE SPECTATORS.



from the pen of our cartoonist RUPERT RICE

Wrestling Newsreel

By JERRY FORD.

ON April 3rd at the Minneapolis Auditorium, the two N.W.A. champions met. **Lou Thesz**, 3 year heavyweight champion, and **Verne Gagne**, 6 month junior heavyweight champion. With a weight advantage of 20lbs. Lou emerged the victor. After the match Verne said, "I believe there is too much distinction between a heavyweight and junior heavyweight. Actually Thesz defeated me because of his experience and not weight." To prove his point he challenged Kansas and Missouri heavyweight champion, **Bonnie Etchison.** Outweighed by 23lbs. Gagne emerged the victor.

Lou Thesz recently defeated **Buddy Rogers** in the St. Louis Arena before 17,796 with thousands turned away.

Pat O'Connor, the New Zealand mat flash is thrilling fans in the Minneapolis area.

The Sharpe Brothers, the tag team champions on the west coast, are the roughest, toughest duo in wrestling to-day.

California fans are in for a treat as giant **Wladek Kowalski** plans to invade the west coast and bring back the Pacific Coast Championship Belt.

American stars are starting to invade the international scene. Latest to go is **Jack Hader**, a veteran heavyweight who has left for Australia.

Primo Carnera's tour was called off because of the doubtful political situation throughout the world.

Paul Lukas spilled the beans when he was interviewed over a nation-wide TV hook-up show. When asked what he did before becoming a motion picture star and winner of the Academy Award he disclosed that he was a pro grappler back in Hungary.

Jim McMillen, former great grappler, noted for his tussles with **Jim London**, and present Mayor of Antioch, Illinois, has turned referee of the wrestling game.

We happen to know that of all the challengers to his N.W.A. crown, **Lou Thesz** fears **Hans Schnabel** the most.

Southern Californian fans are mystified over the identity of **El Torro**. El Torro is masked and his surefire brand of action packed grappling is making him a big hit with the fans.

Another English nobleman has appeared. His name, **Lord Albert Mills**, scales 250lbs., a top notch grappler and a former Idaho State champ. Mills is rough and tough, and his speed is amazing because of his size.

Al Steinhaur, veteran grappling star, has recently retired from the ring and will devote his time to his various enterprizes. In his spare time he is a referee but may become a promoter soon.

Bernard "The Chest" recently held **Lou Thesz** to an hour draw. It was the fourth time in three years that anyone was able to go the limit with the champ. **Buddy Rogers** and **Antonini Rocca** together with one other top notcher were the celebrated stars.

The National Wrestling Alliance will hold their annual convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, sometime this fall.

I tab **Rita Martinez** as successor to the women's crown worn at the present time by the invincible **Mildred Burke.**

Hot spot in the U.S. at the present time is California. The west coast is reputed to be having its biggest crowds since the gold rush. One coast's loss in another's gain as **Michele Leone** leaves the west for the east.

Mike Mazurki, famed grappler, noted for his figure four body scissors, has appeared in close to fifty motion picture films.

The original **German Oak was Hans Steinke.**

Ali Baba, one time heavyweight wrestling champion of the world, won a **Major Bowes Amateur** contest.

Natie Brown, one time boxer and now pro wrestler, was the first man to go the distance with Joe Louis.

Leo "The Lion" Newman actually got his nickname because he owns lions.

The great mystery grappler of the late 30's known as the **Masked Black Secret** was none other than **Marvin Westenberg**, still top notch.

Nanjo Singh originated the cobra clutch he tells us quite by accident.

Bibber McCoy caught for the Detroit Tigers in 1928 and 29.

Gus Sonnenberg was not the first to introduce the body block. **Earl Caddock** in 1921 used it against **Joe Stecher.**

Jumping Joe Savoldi was not the first man to introduce the drop-kick. It was unknown **Abie Coleman** who originated the drop-kick.

In Houston, Japanese grappler, **Duke Keomuka** is showing his sleeper hold to fans. **Big Humphrey** remains the fans' favourite. **Don Evans** prevails as top villain along with Texas State Champion **Danny Savich.** **George Drake**, bobby sox idol pulled upset over popular **Black Guzman** as did **Danny McShane.** Other stars are the cobra twister **Cyclone Anaya, Rito Romero, Leo Newman** and **Tom Rice.**

Los Angeles has most of the younger stars such as **Leo Garabaldi, Enrique Torress, Roger Mackay, Roy Asselin, Jimmy Valentine** and Negro sensation **Woody Stroode.** Also such oldsters as **Bombo Kulkovich, Gino Garabaldi,** Junior Heavyweight Champion **Baron Michele Leone, Pat Fraley,** Turkish impressario **Ali Bey,** and the French star, Mr. Europe himself, young **Andre Drapp.**

Located in same state but different is San Francisco and here are the crowd thrillers. **Orchid Clark Gable** named after you know who, **Great Scott, Sharpe Brothers, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Vincent Lopez, Juan Humberto,** top notcher **Bob Bruns** and Mexican star **Chico Gracia.**

In Buffalo **Sheik of Araby**, young sensation **John Barrand**, young Jewish Canadian **Sam Berg**, **Farmer Don Martin**, **Lord Blears**, **Sandor Kovacs**, **Steve Stanlee**, **Nanjo Singh** and **Luck Simonsovich**, are helping the mat sport prosper.

In Tulsa the top money maker, **Gorgeous George**, is packing them in for promoter **Leroy McGuirk**, together with **Verne Gagne**, villain **Tony Morelli**, **Billy Raburn**, **Angelo Savoldi**, **Whitey Whittler**, speedy **John Balbo**, **Wild Red Berry** and mean **Ivan Kalmikoff**, are starring.

Kansas and Missouri are booming with such an array of talent as State Champion **Ray Eckert**, **Jerry Meeker**, **Terry McGlanis**, **Red McIntyre**, **Paul Orth** and **Bob Orton**.

In Phoenix **Danny McShane**, **Killer Karl Davis**, **Wee Willie Davis** and **Sonny Myers** are going strong. Also here are **Rita Martinez** and other famous women wrestlers.

St. Louis is drawing big crowds behind main eventers as **Tarzan Kowalski**, **Carlos Rodriguez**, **Ivan Rasputin**, **Red Vagnonne**, **Jim Doble** and six man tag teams are going great guns.

In Minneapolis promoter Tony Stecher is presenting such stars as **Bronko Nagurski**, **George Bollas**, **Leo Nomellini**, **Stan Mayslack**, **Steve Gob**, **Con Bruno** and **Abe Kashey**, are appearing.

Salt Lake City packs in fans by billing **Danno McDonald** young handsome star, **John Pavich** roughster, **Milt Olsen** speedy middleweight, **Pat O'Shocker**, **Freddy Roy**, **George Thomas**, **350lb. Swedish Angel**, **Gene Blackely**, scientific **Jack Carter** and **Buzz Jones**, in all star bouts.

In Ohio we find Canadian star **Larry Moquin**, the professor young **Roy Shires**, **Bobby Coleman** and **Lone Eagle**, are exhibiting their ability.

Let us move to Canada and in doing so to Montreal and Toronto. In Montreal we find top star **Yvon Robert**, recent visitor **Buddy Rogers**, **Frankie Hart**, **Earl McReady**, **Larry Kasaboiski**, **Bob Managoff** and **Yukon Eric Holmback**, reputed strong man.

In Toronto we find the **Lorti Brothers**, **Ski Hi Lee**, **Masked Marvel**, **Whipper Bill Watson**, **Lord Layton**, **Fred Atkins** one time Australian cham., and **Al Krusher Korman**, tall man.

Showing their wrestling prowess in Atlanta are **Reb Russell**, **Don McIntyre**, **Babe** and **Chris Zacharjas**, **Bobby Lape** and **Tom Mahoney**. Most wanted match down here is a **Golden Terror Don McIntyre** event.

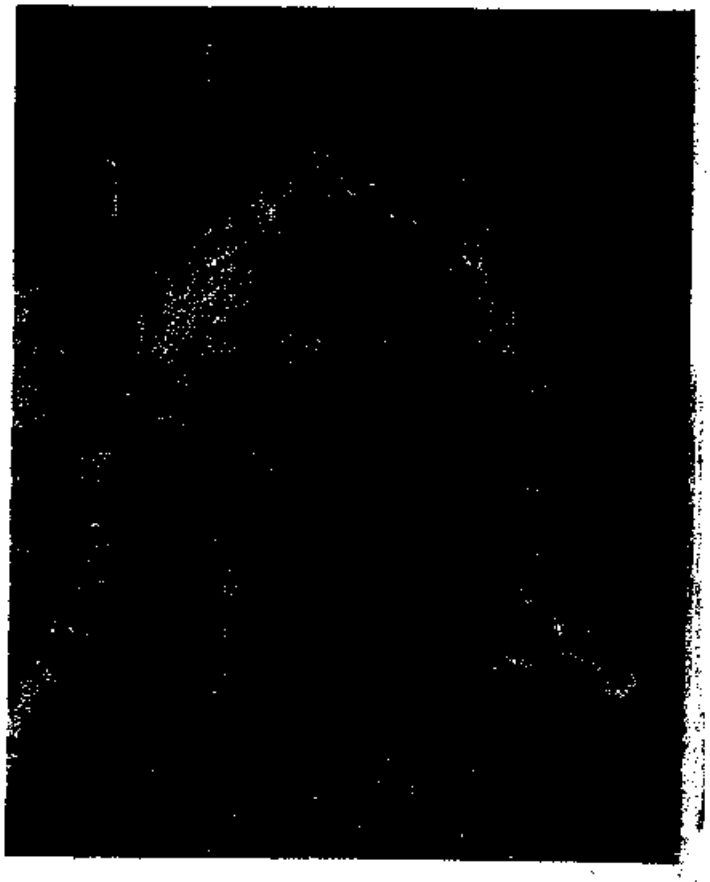
Prince Omar, Persian Sheik, is heading cards in the southland.

Joe, the boxing gorilla, has been taking on quite a few wrestlers down in Atlanta. Here boxers are too chicken-hearted to get into the ring with Joe.

Now to let the fans know where their favourites are. In New York **Adrian Baillargeon** (the Canadian strong man), **Rip Hawk**, **Antonino Rocca**, **Frederick Von Schact**, **Jack Clancy**. **Miguel Torres** and hosts of others are attracting the fans.

Chicago is in fine shape with **Hans Schnabel**, **The Thing**, **Dizzy Davis**, **Mighty Atlas**, **Gypsy Joe**, along with the midgets, are thrilling fans under the auspices of **Fred Kohler**. Under the **Fabiani-Schwartz** coup are **Franco's Mignet**, **Ruffy Silverstein**, **Green Hornet**, **Edmund Francis**, **Frank Talaber**, **Jack Nichols**, **and Bob Ford**, are packing them in.

Back in the late thirties when wrestling was in the dumps, **Jim Londos** was asked by a reporter, "If he thought wrestling would survive" Jim, who was by then not too active replied: "I have been taught that only the good can survive; wrestling is good therefore it will survive." How right Jim was for to-day wrestling is literally booming.



LAROSSE, Canadian wrestler, does not seem to mind whether he continues in or out of the ring in a Montreal contest. Wrestling outside of the ropes is not allowed in British rings.

There has been some talk that **Timmy Geohagen** may be a real successor to **Danno O'Mahoney**. Timmy, 215lbs. heavyweight from Ireland, is currently thrilling fans in Texas.

Dennis Clary, named by me as most promising cookie, has signed a five year contract calling for **Orville Brown**, former Heart of America Heavyweight Champion, to serve in the capacity as Dennis' coach and business manager.

Johnny Silvi, Canadian ace, was a song writer, auto race driver, an aerialist in a circus, and a graphoanalyst.

Ed "Strangler" Lewis was recently made honorary Fire Chief of Sioux City, Iowa. He was presented with a fireman's cap and plaque for his contribution toward curbing juvenile delinquency.

Such Americans as **Arturo Toscaninni** and **Ezzard Charles** can always be seen tuned in to wrestling on their TV set.

Advice to **Joe Louis**. Save yourself and become a grappler.

FRANKIE TALABER is a great attraction in Chicago rings.

In the height of depression in this country, **Ray Steele** lost to **Jim Londos** in the Yankee Stadium in 1931 and the gate netted $70,000.

Gorgeous George is now officially Gorgeous George. He had his name changed from George Wagner.

Frank Sexton won many prizes as an expert hog caller at 4th gatherings.

The first man to adopt the name "Angel" was the Irish Angel back in the 1920's.

Dutch Schwieggert has changed his name to the **Great Scott.** Some difference.

Leroy McGuirk was once a famous sports writer.

Well it seems that Uncle Joe Stalin has invaded the wrestling business. A wrestler in the southwest uses that name in the ring and what is more exasperating, his nickname is "The Russian Bear."

Here is sad news which just came to us. **Curtis (Spike) Peterson,** 39, died of injuries received in a match, May 28th, in Richland Center, Wisconsin. Peterson suffered a fractured neck when he fell to the mat in a bout with **Sam Abraham** from Springfield, Illinois.

Sam Munchnick presented **Bronko Nagurski** a plaque on behalf of his outstanding contribution to wrestling during his many years of pro grappling. Inspired by the award the Bronk proceeded to defeat **George Bollas,** redeeming himself.

Now let us make some awards, verbally that is:

Strongest Grapplers: Yukon Eric and Wladek Kowalski.

Fastest Grapplers: Bill Goela and Marvin Mercer.

Most Scientific: Frank Sexton.

Toughest: Lou Thesz.

Most Agile: Antonino Rocca.

Dirtiest: Golden Terror and Dick Raines.

Best Rookie: Dennis Clary.

Most Popular: Leo Garabaldini & Sheik Lawrence

Biggest Draw: Antonino Rocca.

Most Successful: Don Eagle.

Best Announcer: Dick Lane.

Best Referee: John Garon.

Top Promoter: Fred Kohler.

Top Arenas: Montreal Forum and Amphitheatre.

Most Gallant: Yvon Robert.

Top Crowd Pleaser: Bill Watson

Top Money Maker: Gorgeous George.

GENE DUBUQUE has made great progress since joining the wrestling ranks. Has a terrific physique, and is a very fast man in the ring.

★

Beautiful Gloria Battini

ONE of the latest acquisitions to the rank of girl wrestlers, beautiful Gloria Baratt[illegible], is drawing record houses. [illegible] notions some people may have [illegible]ds with cauliflower ears [illegible] there are some!—to meet Gloria down any avenue would not give the least intimation that she was one of the roughest girls in the ring to-day. Many a film star would be delighted to have the good looks [illegible]

Her father [illegible]hy man, owning a chain of petrol stations, [illegible]ocery stores, restaurants, and lives on a 400 acre farm just outside Baltimore. So there isn't any financial reason why daughter Gloria should take to the mat.

She owns considerable real estate at St. Meade. a string of [illegible]ne American writer puts [illegible]ck long and a dramatic soprano voice that the Peabody Conservatory of Music rates in a low whistle."

Miss Bara[illegible] always sits out with the fa[illegible] her contests before she takes [illegible] she steps up under the arc she makes a [illegible] picture in her green velvet robe trimmed with sequins. At the toll of the bell comes the transformation into a whirlwind, a [illegible]ttini certainly knows how [illegible]

She stan[illegible] weighs 145 pounds, has [illegible] bust, [illegible] and a 26in. waist.

Please note. We do not supply names and addresses!!!

The life of Hackenschmidt

Recounted by John Valentine from the first biography ever written on George Hackenschmidt by H. Turner, published 1907, Manchester, England.

THIRD PART.

The powerful dimensions of Hackenschmidt are apparent in this fine picture. No wonder he was called "The Russian Lion."

SENSATIONAL CONTESTS IN MANCHESTER.

THE two previous visits of Hackenschmidt to Manchester undoubtedly gave a tremendous fillip to wrestling, but his fortnight's sojourn in Cottonopolis in September, 1907, on the occasion of his meeting all comers at the Palace of Varieties, produced a profound sensation. Never since Tom Goddard failed to throw Tom Connors twice inside fifteen minutes in one week at the Grand Theatre, Manchester, several years ago, have wrestling matches created such a vast amount of interest in Lancashire wrestling circles as those between the champion and Charles Felix Poiree at the popular Oxford Street place of amusement, and Mr. Peter Watson was complimented at the time on securing such a drawing card. When Tom Cannon handed a challenge out of a stage box to the Russian's manager who was officiating as M.C. for the Tyldesley veteran's alleged pupil, Poiree, to test the strength, skill, and stamina of the Muscovite, immediately the audience became greatly interested in the 'unrehearsed' scene, for it is known that the Von Moltke of the mat has had vast experience in classical wrestling, and is probably the cutest matchmaker that ever raked up for a wrestler. But although the Frenchman quickly stepped on the stage and in two minutes appeared before the audience in costume, the Russian did not feel disposed to meet the stranger that evening, but he offered to face the muscular man from La Belle France the following night. It must be confessed that the audience were struck with the fine physique of the Frenchman, and it was generally thought that he would render a capital account of himself when the time came for the tussle on the mat. The building was packed from floor to ceiling on the following evening, hundreds of people who had travelled long distances being unable to gain admission, and a friend of mine remarked that it was a 'Vesta Tilley house.' Previous to the curtain being rung up for the "grate fite" Hackenschmidt could not conceal his anxiety as to the result of the contest, and he told me he thought he had a hard nut to crack in the frog-eater. When the pair of gladiators stepped before the footlights amid a buzz of excitement, the audience seemed to gauge that a stiff battle was likely to ensue. Nor were they disappointed. From the moment that the pair grasped each other's shoulders to the finish the excitement was intense. The Russian strained every nerve to give his antagonist his quietus. Poiree was as cool as the proverbial cucumber, and several times extricated himself from the difficult locks amid roars of applause. Ten minutes from the start the Russian tried to lift his man bodily up, but failed in his object, and 'time' was subsequently called amid a scene of wild enthusiasm which baffles description. Tom Cannon and Poiree walked before the footlights and received quite an ovation, the victor looking as if he was wondering what it was all about. In the meantime Hackenschmidt was smarting under the disappointment of his first failure, and L. Neilson,

the Danish wrestler, told me in the wings that the Russian in his native tongue was offering to meet both Cannon and Poiree at that moment. The Russian, on going to the stage, showed unmistakable signs of excitement, but he did not merit the hostile reception that he received, which made one think there was not a large company of sportsmen in the audience. It was subsequently arranged for the pair to fight their battle over again twenty-four hours later, Hackenschmidt offering the Frenchman £50 ($200,00) if he again failed to uphold his reputation.

The interest in the meeting of the cracks had now increased tenfold, and Mr. Johnny Stringer, who was then the assistant manager of the Palace, told me that every reserved seat in the building had been booked before noon on the eventful day. Long before the initial turn had taken possession of the stage money had to be turned away, and it cannot be doubted that the affair had induced record breaking receipts. After dressing, Hackenschmidt, who is full of animal spirits, jumped about like a

JOHN VALENTINE

kitten. "They don't like me," he said to me, at the same time pointing in the direction of the audience. "Of course they do," I replied, "you will be first favourite again after you have polished off the Frenchman"—which appeared to amuse him. He then placed my hand to his heart which was beating fast, but, in contrast to the previous evening, he appeared more than a trifle sanguine of coming out of the ordeal with flying colours, especially after receiving the following wire from Blackpool: "A countrywoman bids you fight and win to-night. You shall not fail—Irma." It was a tough struggle throughout, and Hackenschmidt displaying marvellous agility on the attack; he tried every manouevre that he knew to place the Frenchman's shoulders on the mat. But, as before, Poirre proved himself a slippery opponent, and in two instances he extricated himself from tight positions, which sent the audience in transports of delight. But after wrestling twelve minutes and forty-five seconds Hackenschmidt's star was in the ascendant. Placing his arms underneath those of his antagonist, the Muscovite threw him, and halching him down gained a fall amid well-merited applause.

He completely outgeneralled Poirre on this occasion, and retired behind the curtain with an untarnished reputation amid enthusiastic cheering.

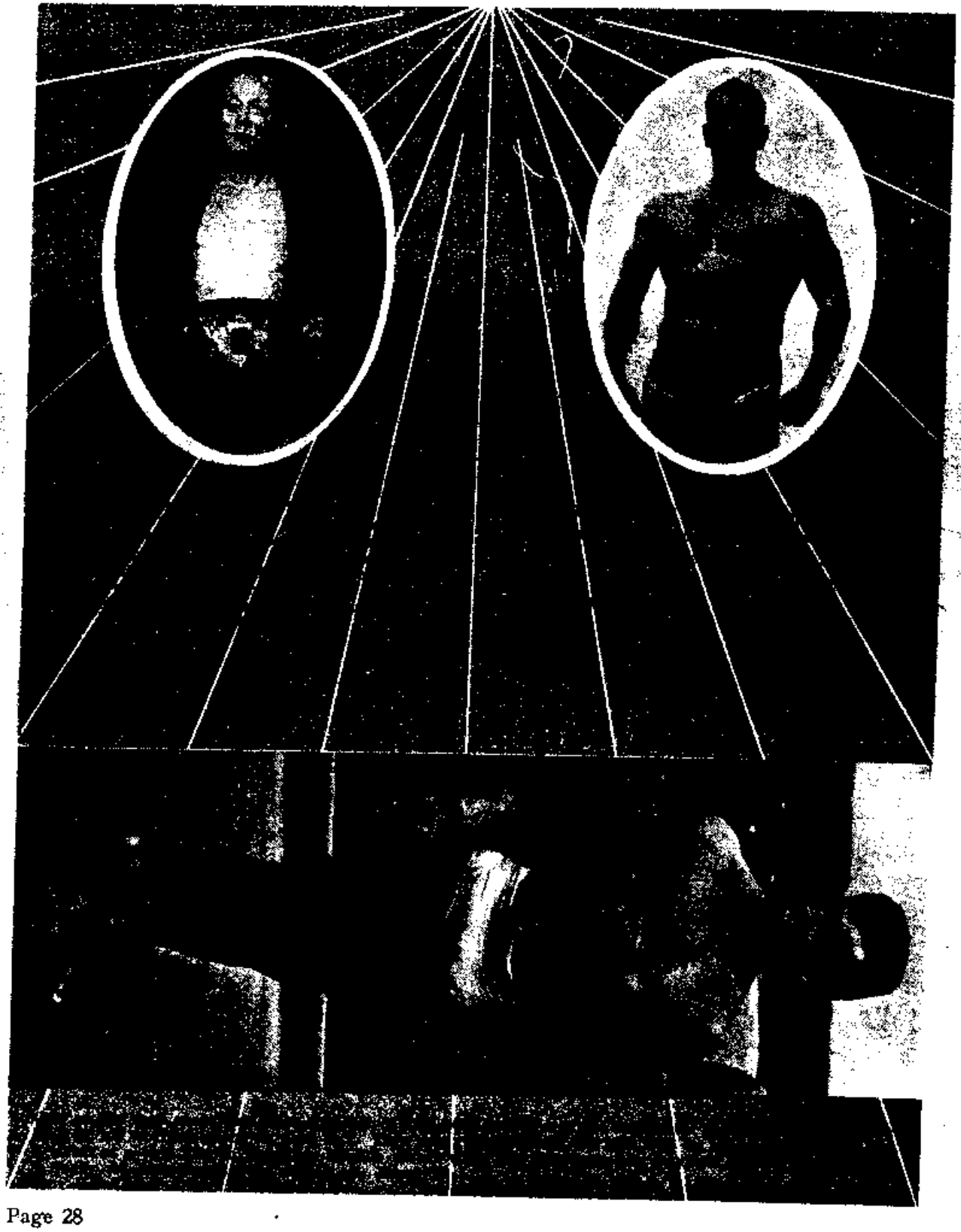
The following were the holds of the men throughout the match. The time was accurately taken by Mr. Seddon of Wigan.

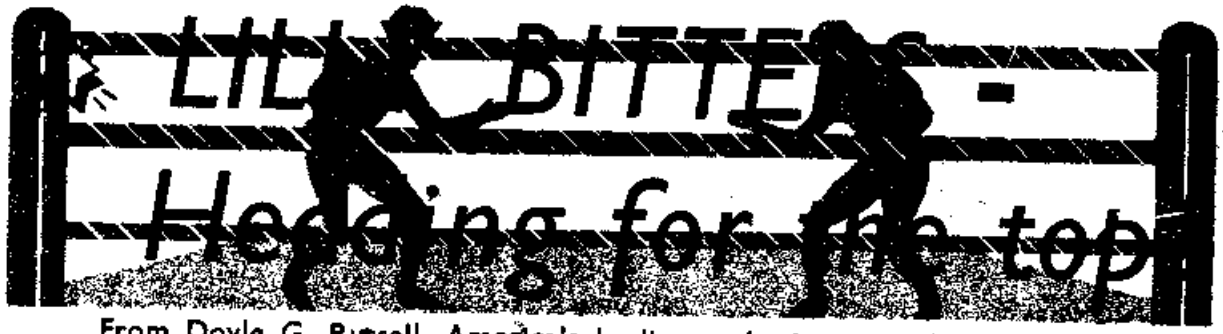
Mins.

1. Both men on their feet.
2. Still locked together on their feet.
3. Hackenschmidt first behind.
4. Poirre extricated himself from a punishing lock.
5. Hackenschmidt on the attack.
6. Poirre slipped away from his antagonist and made frantic efforts to gain a fall.
7. Hackenschmidt tried an overhead throw, but failed.
8. Hackenschmidt behind.
9. Hackenschmidt administered the Half Nelson to Poirre but failed in his objective.
10. The Russian tried to lift his opponent's body up but failed.
11. Poirre behind, but the Frenchman's head was in chancery.
12. Hackenschmidt slipped his arms under his opponent's and halching him down won the match, as stated above.

Hackenschmidt immediately afterwards signed a contract to appear at the Broadhead Houses in Manchester, but he had out-stayed his welcome in Cottonopolis, and the local music-hall proprietors were broken-hearted when the venture proved a failure.

END OF THIRD PART.





From Doyle G. Russell, America's leading authority on girl wrestlers

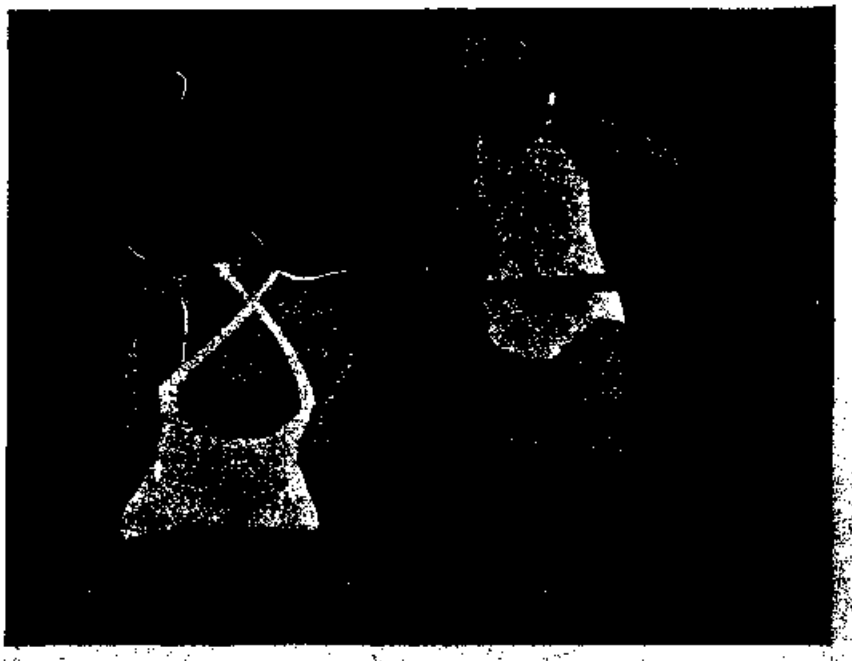
THE most natural, talented young girl wrestler to appear on the professional horizon in years. That is the way that promoters and wrestlers alike describe Lilly Bitters. "For an upstart," they declare, "Lilly seems to have more 'feel' in the ring than some veterans. What she does, she does well and with spirit." Coming from wrestlers, this opinion is a compliment. Wrestlers are very critical of their own group.

Had I read such flowery praises before I had met Lilly and seen her wrestle, I would have been sceptical and considered it as more build-up to try to "sell" a newcomer. However, it was my good fortune to meet Lilly before her first professional match and see her in action before I had a chance to read anything about her. At that first meeting, Violet Viann told me that she had never seen a girl who showed more promise than Lilly. Coming from the normally rather taciturn Violet that is praise indeed. Little Vi habitually meets and usually beats the biggest and best in the game and knows a wrestler when she sees one.

This first match was a tag-team match between Lilly and Violet on the one side and the much larger rough-housing veterans, June Byers and Dot Dotson, on the other. Unlike you might expect, Violet did not have to do the most of the wrestling for her team. Lilly handled herself like a veteran and at various times withstood the bone-jarring kneeing tactics and drop-kicks of June and the smashing overhead body slams of the tall Dot and came back for more. It was a close match but Lilly proved to all that she could give a good account of herself in any kind of competition.

Surprisingly enough, Lilly is a very modest girl about her own abilities. She admits she is only a freshman. If so, probably a lot of the girls are wondering what they will do when she graduates as a full-fledged wrestler. "I'm eager to make good," she says. "When I have meshed all the finer points of the sport into my style, I'll go after bigger game." That is the genuine cast of a future champion. In fact, the "bigger game" must mean the champion. June and Dot are consistently rated in the first half-dozen challengs and they certainly had their hands full with Lilly. Better keep in condition, Mildred!

Lilly caught up in a head hold.



* She urges her partner on from outside the ring.

How do girls get their start in wrestling, many people ask. It's simple. Lilly asked for a chance to wrestle—and got it. Any other girl can do the same. The big difference is that Lilly could—and did stick it out. Perhaps she was lucky in having the rugged constitution to enable her to get a little further, a little faster, in the game than the average girl but she still had to learn the hard way—take the cuffing around and the chagrin of being worked over by the more experienced girls while she was learning to reciprocate in kind. No great athlete is born; they are made that way through training. In wrestling the only way to train is by wrestling. One fine girl wrestler remarked to me recently, "I don't learn very much from the girls I can beat, but every time I get beaten I have a better chance of winning the next time." As a matter of fact, she seldom loses.

Lilly is a slim, pretty, dark-eyed brunette. She has the warm friendly smile and easy conversational manner of the typical Hollywood version of a store clerk. And she should be, as she used to be a clerk in a five-and-ten cent store in Newark. She seems to prefer very plain, solid-colour, unadorned dresses, rather than the tailored suits or the fancy frocks which seem so prevalent among the girl wrestlers. On her erect, beautifully proportioned figure they look fine as would about any other styles. However, she does conform to the crowd in the high-heeled latest styled slippers, the almost invitable emblem of the girl wrestler outside the ring.

Speaking of shoes reminds me of my first meeting with Lilly. In coming down the many cornered stairway from the girls' dressing room, when she reached the last step directly in front of me, she "lost a heel" as has been done so many times since someone convinced ladies of all ages that they are more attractive if elevated several inches higher into the air. The usually sedate Lilly was completely flustered and her dignity took an awful beating for a few minutes. She still blushes when I ask her (as I usually do) if she ever loses a heel any more.

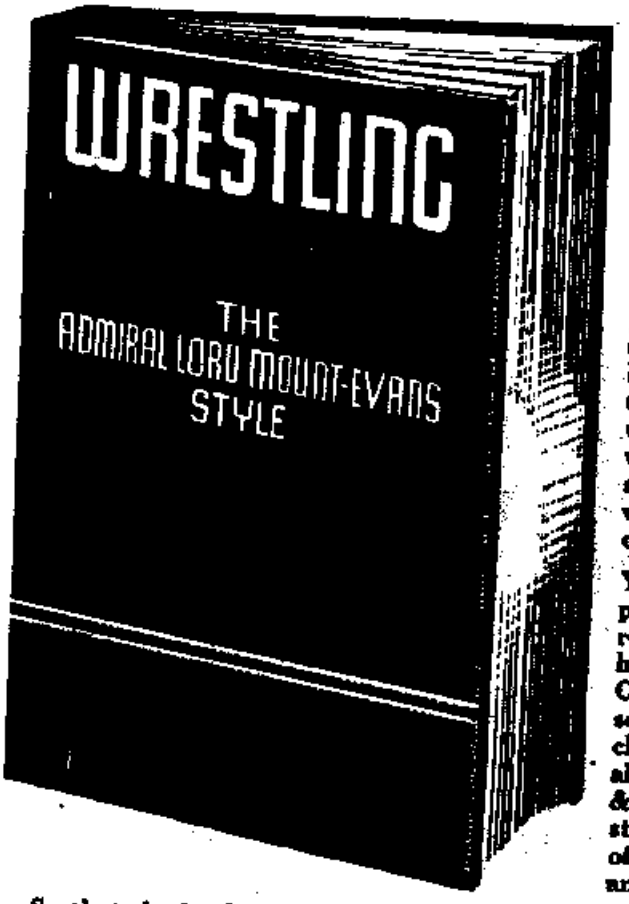
Oddly enough, Lilly, of all the girl wrestlers, wrestles barefoot. Why, I don't know except she says shoes retard her speed. I do know it is not because she needs colour. Who am I to object?

Lilly became interested in wrestling through television, became a regular customer at the matches and started a fan club for Tony Galento. This association and her enthusiasm spearheaded her into the sport so she decided to become a girl wrestler. "If girls like Mildred Burke, June Byers, Vi Viann and Neil Stewart can wrestle and get top money, why can't I?" she reasoned. One can think of a good many reasons before seeing Lilly in action, but somehow they disappear after that. She contacted Willie Gilzenberg, Tony Galento's manager. "I liked her spirit, enthusiasm, and get-up," said Willy, who contacted Billy Wolfe on her behalf.

She had her first match in Sidney, Nebraska, 10 days after she contacted Gilzenberg. This is an unheard of event insofar as wrestling is concerned. Most girls require months of schooling but then most girls are'nt Lilly Bitters. Did she make good? She says, "I got a bruised knee, lip and black eye." But she adds, "I liked the sport, particularly the pay-off. I was paid more for one night's work than a month in a five and dime store." The crowd? She wowed 'em.

Lilly credits her love for athletics to her mother, Elsie, who was a top bowler, weightlifter and gymnast at National Turnere. Her father, Louis, is an avid sports fan, and a brother, Richard, is a Bloomfield Tech student who plays football, baseball and basketball. All three are wrestling fans, of course, now.

Billy Wolfe has high hopes for Lilly. "She shows more promise at this stage of her career than did Champion Mildred Burke. In a year she'll be one of the most polished wrestlers in the sport." What higher praise can there be than that?



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